



A Publication of the Arizona Department of Health Services

April, 1994

## ADHS Wins Record Flinn Grant

ADHS has been awarded \$605,264 by the Flinn Foundation to establish a comprehensive, computerized immunization tracking system that officials believe will help Arizona double its rate of childhood immunization.

"This grant represents a sizable commitment of foundation grant funds and is the largest single grant the foundation has made in support of a state agency project," said John W. Murphy, executive director of the Flinn Foundation.

The foundation is a private, nonprofit philanthropic organization that supports nonprofit health-care activities in Arizona, as well as programs in education and the arts.

"This award will tear down one of the greatest single obstacles blocking increased immunization levels statewide--the inability of health providers to access complete immunization records of children," said Governor Symington. The governor and ADHS officials announced the grant April 15 at El Rio Clinic in Tucson.

"I am pleased with the confidence Flinn has in ADHS to head this

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*The awards ceremony draws a crowd.*

## Annual Employee Honors Announced At ADHS

If you didn't attend the March 31 annual employee awards ceremony in the west parking area of 1740 W. Adams, you still might not know how easy it was to find inspiration amid asphalt and oil spots.

Dry eyes were in short supply during a very uplifting posthumous recognition of Dr. John Doll with ADHS's highest honor, the Meritorious Achievement Award.

Doll, the longtime manager of the vector-borne zoonotic diseases section, died last Nov. 21 after a prolonged bout with what was suspected to be cancer.

"John always gave tirelessly of himself," Dr. Jack Dillenberg told employees. "He provided keen insight, extensive knowledge, steady

leadership and a true love for his work. He was widely respected by his colleagues for the quality of his work, and more importantly, for the quality of his character. He was a joy to be around and was always cheerful, kind, funny and interesting. John approached his work with an ease and perseverance that made him a role model to many employees.

"The department is stronger because of his contribution and he will long be missed. I am pleased to present the Meritorious Achievement for Dr. John Doll to his wife, Shirley."

Shirley Doll walked, teary eyed, to the front of the ceremony, em-

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# **Apology & Correction**

Readers who found themselves stumbling through our typo-infested March issue have our sincere apologies. A case of electronic mis-communication started the issue on the road to ruin. When ADHS's story disk came out Chinese on the printing company's computer, the printing company decided to re-key every article in haste and without the benefit of spell-check. We have been told that the problem has been solved for this and future issues of HealthLink.

One of last month's errors requires a correction because it wasn't an obvious typo. In the story about lead-prevention efforts, three of the children tested in a program for consumers of water from metal tanks in Yuma had lead levels of at least 10 micrograms per deciliter. In the story "three" had been rekeyed "seven."

## **HealthLink**

HealthLink is published by the Arizona Department of Health Services Director's Office, 1740 W. Adams, Room 407, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Phone: 542-1001. HealthLink's mission is to keep our employees and state policymakers informed about events involving the state health department. We welcome your comments.

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Jeff Davis, Rosalie Lopez, Carol Murray.

## **UPDATE: Leaded Crayons**

ADHS's discovery of a set of Chinese crayons with a dangerously high level of lead sparked nationwide attention and federal action against 11 brands of crayons imported from China.

The ADHS Office of Risk Assessment & Investigation came across the toxic crayons while investigating the lead poisoning of an 11-month-old boy. The boy's blood-lead level was 48 micrograms per deciliter--nearly five times the federal "level of concern."

The crayons found in the boy's home were from a set of 12 jumbo crayons imported from China by Concord Enterprises of Los Angeles. Ingestion was suspected because some of the crayons had been chewed.

The ADHS State Lab ran a test on one of the crayons and found that it contained a dangerously high level of lead.

ADHS then notified the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) of the crayons and on March 8 ADHS issued a news release urging parents to keep imported crayons out of the hands of young children.

News coverage of Arizona's lead warning extended outside the state to television stations in Los Angeles, Miami and elsewhere.

"Once the press release came out of Arizona, it was picked up by a number of other state health departments, including Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California," CPSC spokeswoman Joel Swisher told the Mesa Tribune.

On March 22, CPSC in Wash-

ington D.C. announced the voluntary recall by Concord Enterprises of the jumbo Chinese crayons.

On April 5, CPSC announced the ban or voluntary recall of another 10 brands of crayons imported from China. Combined, more than 990,000 boxes of the affected crayons had been imported and/or sold nationwide, according to an account by Knight-Ridder Tribune.

"Arizona officials who originally alerted the federal commission said they were pleased with the recall," the Knight-Ridder account said. "'It's no surprise,' said Cecile Fowler of Arizona's Department of Health Services. 'They've taken the proper follow-up action.'"

Closer to home, drug treatments have reduced the lead level of the poisoned boy, but doctors say it could be five years before they know whether there will be permanent damage.

The news also spawned an E-mail thanks to ADHS Director Dillenberg from a fellow employee. "Jack - just a note to let you know the Department's discovery of the crayons with lead in them has been of significant benefit to my family," it said. "As a result of the publicity surrounding this, my wife found some of the toxic crayons (thankfully unopened) in a gift package to my 2-year-old. Had this information not been available, we probably would have had a sick child in the next couple of months."

# ADHS News Notes

by Carol Murray & Friends

The ADHS Cancer Control Project and the Arizona Cancer Center are presenting a **Worksite Breast Health Promotion Conference** for wellness coordinators from 100 companies. About 600 Arizona women will die of breast cancer this year. Researchers estimate that 30 percent of these deaths could have been avoided with regular mammography screenings, according to ADHS Women's Cancer Project Director Anne Urban. She said a breast cancer health education program for state employees is being developed by ADHS in conjunction with the DOA Wellness Program.

The role of public health in health care reform will be among the topics addressed at the 17th annual conference on **health promotion and disease prevention** slated for May 5-7 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale. The conference, titled "Putting the Pieces Together for a Healthy and Safe Arizona," is sponsored by ADHS, the Arizona Public Health Association, Arizona Safe Kids, the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arizona and the state Department of Education. The list of speakers includes Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Dorothy Cooper, Pam Goslar, Phil Lopes and Rene Manning from ADHS, and many specialists from the private and public sectors. Call Pat Zurick at 978-0870 for more info.

An agreement with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention establishing the Office of Disability Prevention in the Office of Chronic Disease Epidemiology has been renewed for a third year. One target

area is **head and spinal cord injuries**. Staff is working on a statewide surveillance system to guide planning for demonstration projects and is collaborating with other ADHS offices and the Governor's Council on Spinal & Head Injuries to develop primary prevention programs.

The Office of Emergency Medical Services is sending pre-hospital providers copies of the **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome brochure** produced by ADHS and the Arizona SIDS Advisory Council. More than 100 Arizona infants die each year from SIDS, the leading cause of death in infants between three-weeks and one-year of age. The cause and cure still are unknown. A 35-minute video, "First Responder to SIDS," is also available from OEMS.

A second annual **conference on child care** is being presented this month by the ADHS Office of Child Care Licensure and the Comstock Children's Foundation, Inc. The "Best Steps" conference will be held Saturday, April 23, at the Holiday Inn/Palo Verde Hotel & Conference Center in Tucson. Dr. Michael Cohen of Behavioral & Developmental Pediatrics in Tucson, will deliver a keynote speech titled "The Current Status of Children's Physical and Mental Health in the U.S." Conference topics include the health cost of violence, the early adolescent, and integrating multiculturalism into curriculum.

A **prank killer bees warning notice** kept the public information offices at ADHS and the Arizona Department of Agriculture buzzing on April Fools' Day. Both agencies issued news releases stating that the

bright yellow notices, which were taped to doors of residents in parts of Peoria and Glendale, should be disregarded. The notice said "mass eradication measures," including aerial spraying, were to be conducted and children, senior citizens and pets should remain indoors. The ADHS news release called the hoax "a cruel prank that prompted some residents to miss work and keep their children home from school."

**Motor vehicle fatalities** declined 5.5 percent last year to their lowest level in 30 years. A NHTSA report attributes this to a decrease in alcohol-related deaths and an increase in the use of safety belts, child restraint seats and motorcycle helmets. Crash fatalities fell from 41,508 in 1991 to 39,235 last year, marking the first time since 1962 that fatalities have dropped below 40,000.

The **State Employees Charitable Campaign** raised \$563,211 in 1993, exceeding its goal by \$63,211. "Congratulations are in order for all state employees that were involved in this important community fund raising effort," wrote SECC "500 Club" co-chairmen Linda Blessing and Elliott Hibbs in a letter to ADHS Director Jack Dillenberg.

Watch for the monthly calendar announcing the **free wellness classes** for state employees. Classes on subjects ranging from cooking and exercise to eating out and controlling blood pressure are being conducted in Phoenix, Tempe, Tucson, Coolidge, Casa Grande and Show Low as part of the Arizona Healthways Employee Wellness Program. Call 542-4128 for more info. ☀

# Awards

Continued from page 1

braced Dr. Dillenberg and told the crowd her husband would have been both surprised and extremely honored by the award, for his warm feelings about his work, his co-workers and ADHS were heartfelt.

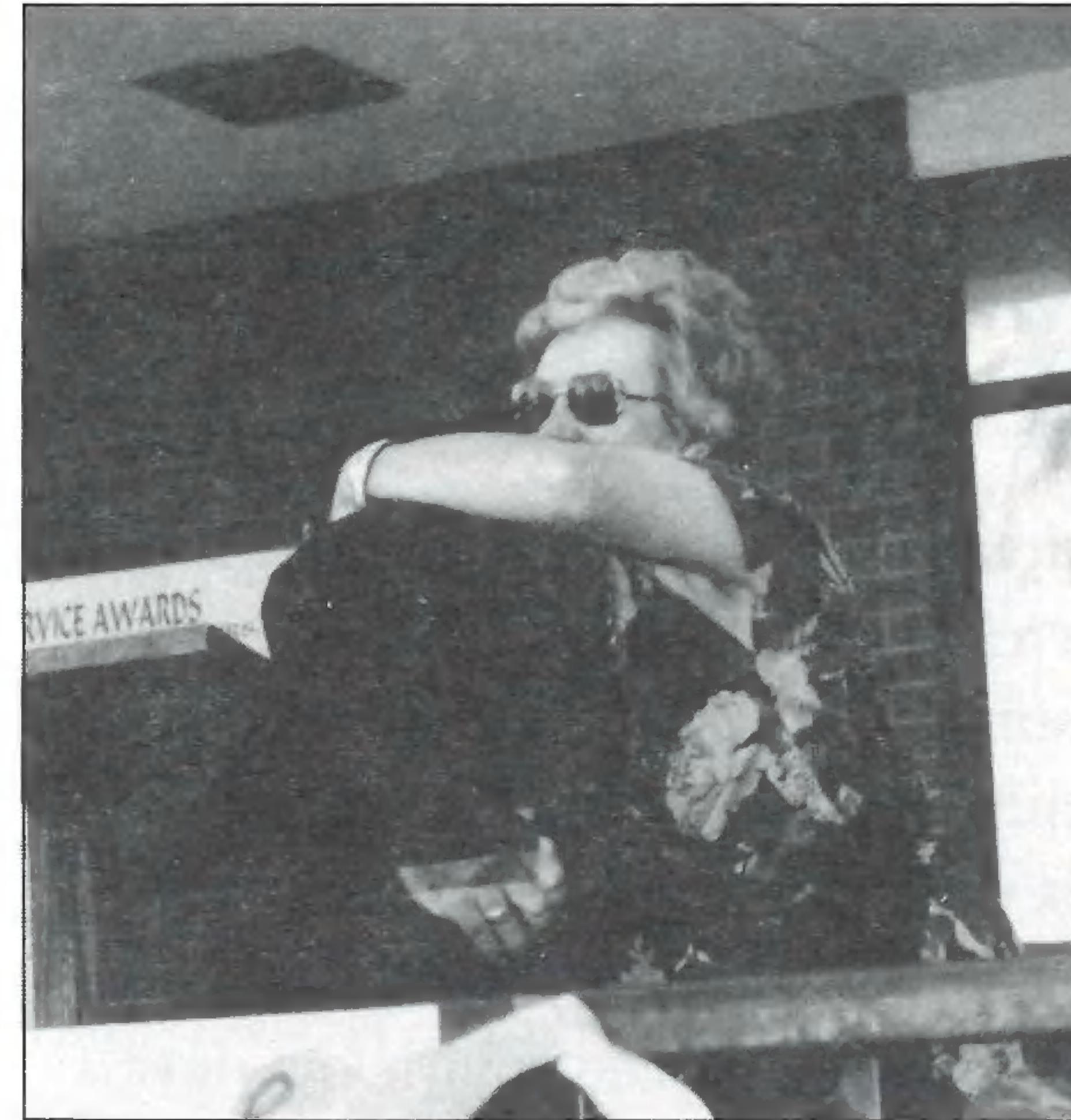
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Here are the other 1993 departmental award winners:

**Meritorious Achievement.** Merrill Krenitz of Community & Family Health Services was recognized for significant contributions to a broad range of major departmental projects. They included development of the *Arizona 2000* report, the Planning, Evaluation & Data Center within her service area, the Inventory of Arizona Health Data Bases and the Grants Work Process Improvement Team Report. Additionally she assists others in speech and grant writing.

"All projects that Merrill completes are of the highest quality," Dillenberg said. "She is thorough, very self directed and willing to take on added responsibilities."

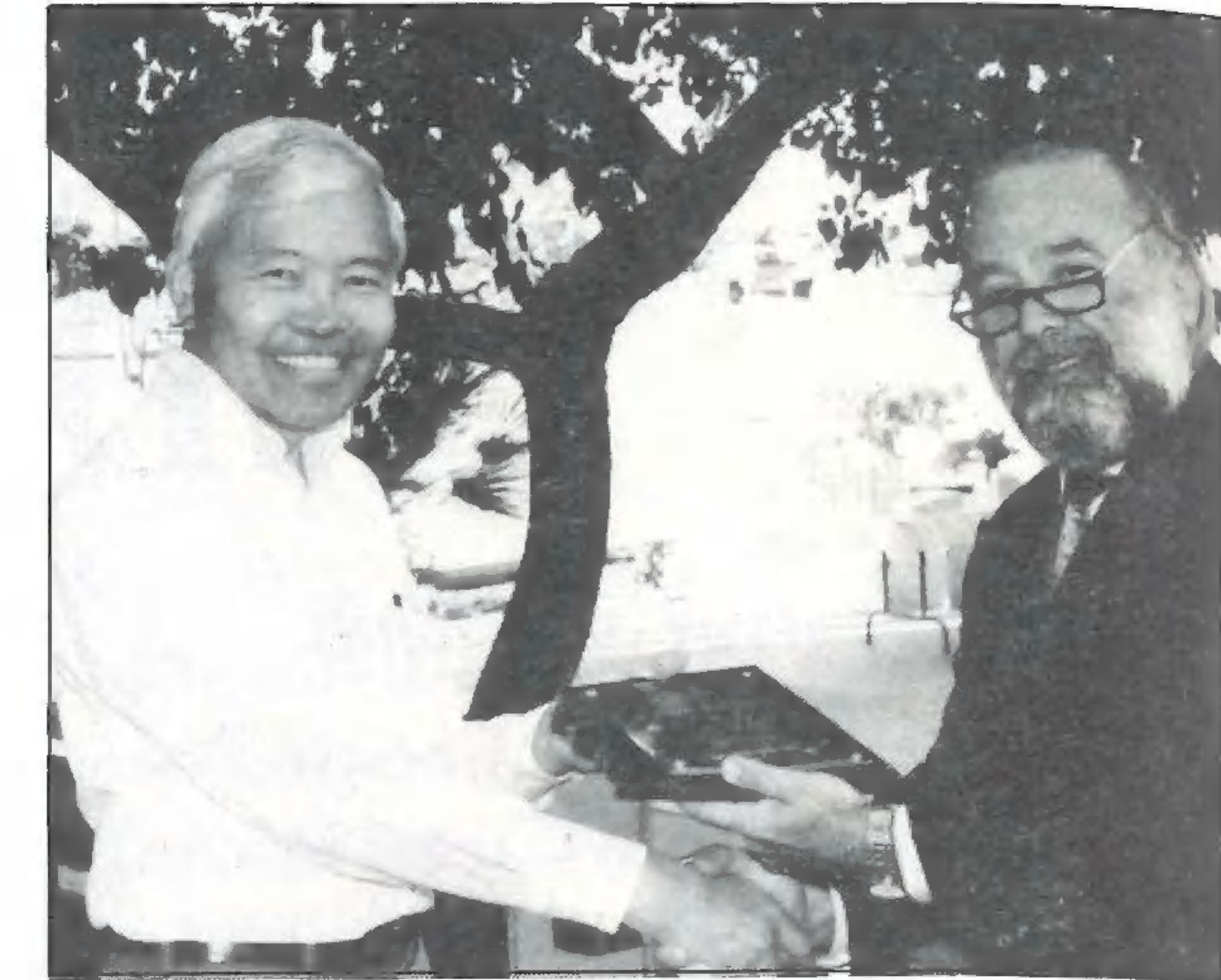
**Employee of the Year.** Madelynn McKee was selected for her work as payroll supervisor with Administrative & Financial Services. Upon the transfer of Loretta Kuhler, Lynn ably managed the payroll office and trained all seven of the employees who process payroll information for 2,000 employees, Dillenberg said, adding, "She



Shirley Doll embraces Dillenberg.

not only trained those seven employees, but suffered through the idiosyncrasies of an interim boss and two new payroll managers, properly indoctrinating them into the ways of the department."

**Manager of the Year.** Ying Ong, telecommunications manager at Information Technology Services, won the distinction for helping bring ITS through a difficult transformation of outdated technology to today's state-of-the-art communications. "He makes his staff feel that their contributions are important and inspires them to do quality work," Dillenberg said. "He has great integrity and ingenuity in guiding his team to perform well under adverse conditions to create an outstanding network."



Ong accepts manager's award.

**Team of the Year.** The Epidemiology Section at Disease Prevention Services was recognized for its extremely busy year in which it responded, in the midst of an outbreak of meningitis, to a mysterious outbreak of the disease now known as Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome. Dillenberg said the section responded "rapidly and appropriately with all the tools at our disposal" to identify and control the source of the new disease. He added that the section responded effectively "in spite of being short-staffed and in addition to other ongoing responsibilities."

**25 Years of Service.** Delores Erickson and Kathleen Kluge of Vital Records and Ramon Martinez of Administrative & Financial Services were honored.

**20 Years of Service.** Michael G. Carroll and Judith Stockdale of Administrative & Financial Services and Roger J. Yoder of Information Technology Services were recognized.

**Service Area Awards.** The following service area annual awards were announced at the celebration: Madelynn McKee as Employee of the Year and Jane Wright as Manager of the Year for Administrative & Financial Services; Sharon O'Bannon as Employee of the Year for the Director's Office; and, at Information Technology Services, Michelle Kennedy as Employee of the Year, Ying Ong Manager of the Year and Telecommunications as Team of the Year.



Winner Krenitz beams.



Epidemiology's Clare Kioski.

# ADHS Leaves Its Mark On Legislative Session

by Rosalie Lopez

During the fast-paced 1994 legislative session, ADHS advocated positions on more than 30 bills heard in committees and tracked another 100 measures.

Here's a snapshot look at some of the key issues affecting ADHS as the session approached its final days earlier this month:

## Success By Six

A compromise was reached with opponents of the "Success by Six" bill to bolster programs aimed at improving the health of young children and giving them a running start in school.

The accord, pending final passage, would increase funding for Health Start, Healthy Families and family literacy programs. For Health Start, it includes an additional \$1 million in funding for FY 95-96 and \$1.4 million in FY 96-97.

## Behavioral Health

A bill to shift behavioral health services from ADHS to AHCCCS, HB 2500, passed the House Health Committee, but never was voted on by the full House. The legislation reappeared as a strike-everything amendment in the final meeting of the Senate Health, Welfare & Aging Committee, but the bill's sponsor, Rep. Sue Grace, decided not to continue pursuing the transfer this session and agreed to compromise language on timely reimbursement of behavioral health providers by ADHS.

## Trauma Centers

An ADHS bill reflecting recommendations of a trauma system study committee created by lawmak-

ers last year was introduced in the House by Rep. Susan Gerard. The bill seeks to establish a Trauma Advisory Board that would recommend the standards and development of a statewide trauma system. The bill also defines trauma and trauma patient and calls for ADHS to collect trauma system data.

The bill cleared the House, and was incorporated into a related Emergency Medical Services bill, HB 2077, in the Senate. The bill also was amended to include lan-

guage giving ADHS the authority to license air ambulance services.

## Hospital Rates

A bill intended to streamline the process by which ADHS reviews proposed rate increases by hospitals and nursing homes, SB 1352, was introduced by Sen. Ann Day on behalf of ADHS.

The bill reflects recommendations of Project SLIM, the ADHS Data Advisory Committee and staff in the Office of Rate Review. It replaces the existing penalty for failure to provide hospital rate information (revocation or suspension of hospital license) with a civil penalty and eliminates some information requirements.

The bill cleared the House and Senate and was on its way to the Governor for signature.

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## Child Safety Promoted By New Contest

School children statewide are participating in injury-prevention essay and coloring contests sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Johnson & Johnson, and the Arizona SAFE KIDS Coalition.

Bicycle-helmet use is the theme of the essay contest, which is open to public and private elementary school students from age 10 through 14. The topic of the coloring contest is fire safety. It is open to students through age 9.

Grand prize, first, second and third place winners will be selected in each category. Prizes will be awarded May 5 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale and will range from \$250 savings bonds for grand prize winners to bicycle

helmets for third place winners.

"The purpose of these contests is to increase public awareness that injuries are not accidents, they are predictable and preventable," said Doris Evans-Gates, manager of the ADHS injury prevention program and Arizona SAFE KIDS coordinator. "It is our belief that through greater public awareness and education, we can begin to address the major causes of death and disability to our youth."

Injuries are the leading cause of death for Arizonans between the ages of 1 and 44 and are the third leading cause of death among Arizonans of all ages. In 1991, for example, injuries claimed the lives of 389 children and teenagers in Arizona.

One of the top priorities of the *Arizona 2000* report, ADHS's blueprint for a healthier state by the year 2000, is safety promotion and the reduction of death rates for all types of injuries, from drownings to motor vehicle crashes. ☀

# Session

Continued from page 5

## Health Care Institutions

Two bills on health care licensure that were introduced by Sen. Ann Day at the request of ADHS were combined into one bill. That bill, SB 1324, conforms the length of all health care institution licenses to two years (if the facility has no deficiencies); changes evaluation of the Arizona Pioneers' Home from semi-annual to annual to conform with other nursing care institutions; and adds responsibility for prescribing standards for health-care-related demonstration projects to the duties of the director.

The bill also contains an amendment giving ADHS the sole authority to license mental health treatment facilities that are licensed by both ADHS and the Department of Economic Security.

## Tobacco

A bill formally endorsing ADHS pilot programs to curb youth access to tobacco, SB 1055, passed the Senate and then was amended in the House Health Committee to include language restricting the location of vending machines and limiting smoking on school campuses to persons older than 18. Other amendments were anticipated that would limit distribution of free tobacco samples and address whether localities could adopt stricter standards than those set forth in the bill.

Given the significant differences between the Senate and House versions, the prospects for the bill's passage appeared dim as the session wound to a close. ADHS intends to proceed with the pilot programs regardless of the outcome of the legislation.

## Rural Health

Rep. Lou Ann Preble, chairman of an interim committee which

studied the problem of health care availability in rural areas, introduced a three-bill package aimed at improving access to care.

The Preble bills included HB 2391, which establishes a loan forgiveness program to be administered by ADHS for medical students who agree to practice in medically underserved and rural areas. The bill includes \$100,000 for the loan forgiveness program itself, and will serve to draw down a federal match.

It also provides for the obstetrical practitioners malpractice insurance payment program, which is currently administered by ADHS. The malpractice program is funded at \$140,000 and is part of the OSPB budget recommendation.

## Rulemaking Procedures

ADHS and other state agencies became involved in discussions of a bill to significantly change the rulemaking process. Recommended by a legislative study committee on regulatory reform, SB 1236 would provide additional legislative oversight of proposed rules, expand the Arizona administrative register, eliminate review of proposed rules by the Attorney General's office and require statements stating the economic impact of proposed rules on small businesses and consumers.

The bill's fate remained uncertain as the session neared its conclusion.

## Other Bills

Here are other bills of interest that were moving through the process at press time:

■ SB 1143, Alzheimer's Demonstration Project. Would create a special licensing demonstration project for facilities providing care to Alzheimer's patients.

■ SB 1206, WIC Voters. Puts Arizona in compliance with provisions of the federal voter registration law, in part by requiring state public-assistance offices--including the Women's, Infants and Children's supplemental nutrition

program--to make voter registration available.

■ SB 1293, Child Care. Expands day care licensure requirement to include day care programs operated in schools.

■ SB 1314, HIV Testing. Replaces written consent requirement on HIV testing with an oral consent requirement.

■ SB 1480, TCE contamination. Appropriates \$250,000 to ADHS to pass on to the Pima County Health Department for medical services related to TCE contamination.

■ HB 2054, Delinquent HIV tests. Provides for HIV testing of a juvenile convicted of a crime upon request of a victim who has come in contact with juvenile's blood or body fluids.

■ HB 2077, Emergency medical services. Requires ADHS to establish a system for recertification of emergency medical technicians that is based on national recertification standards.

Amendments added provisions of HB 2218, a bill to develop a state-wide trauma system, and SB 1438, legislation dealing with the use of stretcher vans to transport people who do not meet statutory criteria for patients requiring a certain level of care.

■ HB 2091, Air ambulances. Gives ADHS the authority to license, register and otherwise regulate air ambulance services.

■ HB 2301, Domestic violence shelters. Shifts responsibility for administration of the Domestic Violence Shelter fund from ADHS to DES; would allow DES to obtain additional funding through federal match.

■ HB 2462, Adoption. Revises the adoption statutes and directs the ADHS Office of Vital Records to establish a putative father registry.

■ HB 2527, Spina bifida. Extends ADHS pilot program on spina bifida for two years. ☺

# Disease Prevention Hires PIO

Jeff Davis says one of his first chores as the new public information officer for Disease Prevention Services will be to get the service area's newsletters "back on track."

Davis says he plans to improve the quality of "Arizona Responds to AIDS" and "Prevention Bulletin" and to return both newsletters to a regular publication schedule.

Davis joined DPS last month, replacing Patti Murphy, who left in December to take a position with the Department of Economic Security.

Davis will report to ADHS PIO Brad Christensen and will be responsible for keeping the public informed about infectious diseases, including new cases of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome and the recent mumps outbreak in Yavapai County.

Davis, 26, served as director of information for the Arizona Farm Bureau for the past year and a half.

He also has worked as a reporter for the Arizona Capitol Times and as a student intern in the communications office of the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the U of A.

Davis is a fitness fanatic who roller blades, hikes, puts much wear and tear on a Stairmaster, and even makes a twice weekly sojourn from his residence in Chandler to Glendale Community College for a fitness certification program.

Unfortunately, Davis has not yet extended his physical-improvement program to his ears, for he still listens to Madonna and claims he enjoys it. ☺



*Bridge and Pearson.*

## Bridge Named To Lead Women's, Children's Office

The new chief of the ADHS Office of Women's and Children's Health says she intends to take a holistic view of the services provided through her office and other areas of ADHS.

"We have excellent program people here and throughout the agency and I see my role as one of linking people and programs up," adds Marianna Bridge, who moved into the chief's position on March 28. (The former WCH chief, Jane Pearson, last year was promoted to the post of assistant director of Community & Family Health Services and now is responsible for general oversight of WCH and six other offices.)

"We need to continue to talk to each other," Bridge says of program personnel. "It makes sense to collaborate and do more. Let's make one plus one equal three."

For example, the WCH's Teen Prenatal Express program, which encourages pregnant teens to complete their prenatal care, could be "broadened horizontally," she says. "Who else in this young woman's family needs our help to receive

medical or social service primary care?"

Bridge's office is responsible for health programs for mothers, infants and children. WCH activities range from the Newborn Intensive Care Program to the Arizona Sickle Cell Anemia Program.

Bridge is a registered nurse with a strong clinical background and master's degree in counseling education from Indiana University.

Over the past year she was director of nursing for Millcreek Psychiatric Center for Children in Cincinnati. Other positions include director of academic affairs development for the Methodist Hospital of Indiana, where she served for eight years.

Bridge, who first visited Arizona in January, says she's impressed with the state's beauty and relieved to escape the grey, icy winters of the lower midwest.

She says her hobbies and interests include camping, hiking, needle-point and--naturally--the game of bridge. She adds she also enjoys reading, especially English mysteries and works of non-fiction.

# County & Community Corner

## Spotlight On MOHAVE

by Franklin T. L. Krogman

The Body Walk is an interactive Children's health fair developed in Idaho for a 1991 National Nutrition Month project.

My staff at the Mohave County Department of Health & Human Services purchased the Body Walk Kit, which included a script and building ideas, in the spring of 1991. During the summer, we obtained necessary supplies and built our "Body Walk." The project is portable and can be assembled and staged in a 20x20 classroom.

Participants enter the "Body" at the Greeter Station, where they are issued a carry bag and a map of the Body. They then proceed to the Mouth where a volunteer talks to them about oral hygiene and healthy snacks. Handouts at the Mouth Station include "Tommy Tooth" coloring pages, toothpaste, and a toothbrush. Participants then proceed through the esophagus, represented by a six-foot tunnel, into the Stomach.

In the Stomach, the children meet Cathy Carrot, the Stomach Growlers' rock band leader, and are taught a song and dance about healthy food. A handout of the song lyrics is given to each child.

Children are then sent to the Small Intestine, where another character, Super Villi, explains how food is broken into nutrients and absorbed into the bloodstream. Using a slinky, Super Villi demonstrates the length of the small intestine.

Participants then are processed

through the absorption chamber (another tunnel) to a Muscle. Here an instructor talks about having fun exercising and participants are led through a short routine. Handouts include Body Walk Shoelaces.

The Bone Station comes next. Here the children learn how bone is "built" and help build a bone wall.

## New Clinic

Nearly 600 people, including a number of local dignitaries, turned out for the March 31 grand opening of St. Vincent de Paul's new medical and dental clinic in Phoenix.

The 10,000-square-foot clinic, located at 420 W. Watkins, provides primary care services to "anyone who is falling through the cracks," particularly low-income people who aren't poor enough to enroll in AHCCCS, said Mary Hinfey, director of development.

The clinic is staffed by volunteer doctors and other medical personnel. About 50 volunteers are signed up, but the clinic needs more, especially dentists and nurses, said administrator Janice Ertl.

The clinic hours are 8 a.m. to noon on all weekdays except Thursday and 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday. The hours will be expanded after more volunteers sign up, Hinfey said. The clinic's phone number is 261-6868.

"This is a state-of-the-art clinic and the atmosphere is pleasant and upbeat," Hinfey said. "Our focus is to keep people well and working and self-reliant." ☀

Proceeding through a door, the children enter the Heart and are greeted by the Tin Man. They use stethoscopes to listen to their heartbeats. Handouts include "Healthy Pump" coloring sheets.

The children then move into the Lungs where they are welcomed by Sally Scientist. Sally uses test tubes and props to visually demonstrate how smoking can damage your lungs. Participants are then exhaled out the nose on a slide.

The children spend three to five minutes at each of the eight stations. At every station they are given handouts to take home.

In the past two years we have presented Body Walk to approximately 2,700 elementary school students in Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City.

Judging from teacher opinions on evaluation forms and student comments, Body Walk leaves students with a positive opinion of healthy snacks and exercise and causes school administrators to view the Health Department as a valuable program resource.

We demonstrated the Body Walk at a Spring 1993 Conference on Obesity sponsored by the Inter-tribal Council of Arizona. Other presenters included nationally renowned psychology/nutrition author Ellen Satter and top researchers from the University of New Mexico and University of Arizona. It was an honor for us to be invited to this conference.

For their efforts, Carol Glick and her Nutrition Division staff of 13 won Mohave County's MC PRIDE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for group innovation/productivity.

Krogman directs Mohave County's Department of Health & Social Services.

# Hantavirus Poster Contest Won By Teen

A high school student from Eagar was treated to a Phoenix Suns victory over Denver on Easter Sunday as the winner of ADHS's hantavirus-prevention poster contest.

Terril Zwall, a 16-year-old sophomore at Round Valley High School, won three tickets to the Suns game at America West Arena and \$250 for travel and lodging in the Phoenix area.

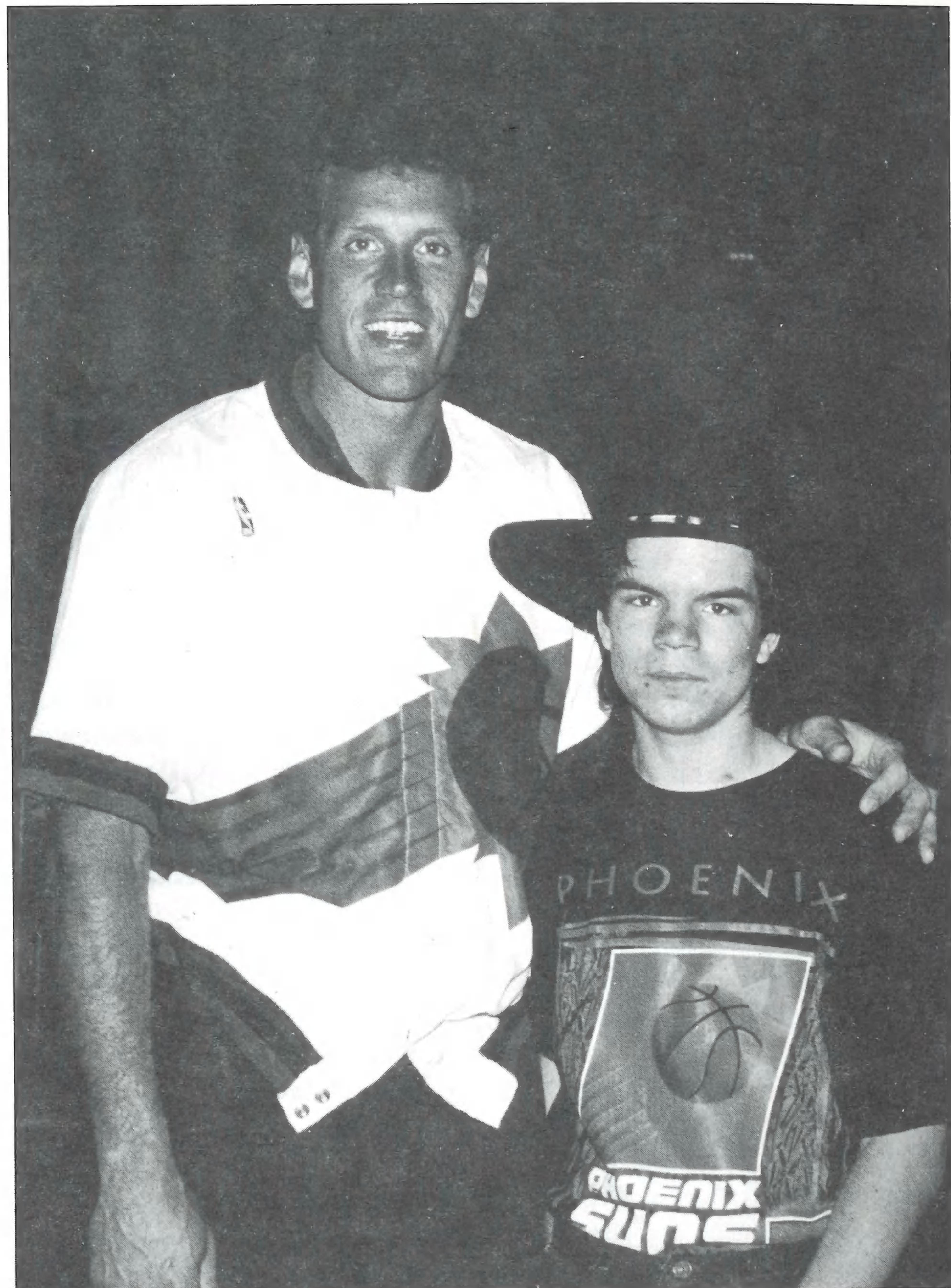
Suns players selected Zwall's entry from five finalists that were posted in their locker room. Overall, 450 school children submitted posters carrying rodent-prevention messages.

Darcy Nelson, a 12-year-old from Sechrist School in Flagstaff, won \$50 for placing second and Shane Houston, a 15-year-old eighth grader from Snowflake Junior High, was awarded \$25 for finishing third. The second- and third-place prize money was donated by the Northern Arizona Area Health Education Center of Flagstaff.

Zwall's poster featured a mouse with its bags packed leaving a spotless kitchen in disgust.

Zwall's design will be used as the focal point of an ADHS hantavirus prevention poster that will be distributed through county health departments to schools, health clinics, doctor's offices and other entities this May, which is to be designated Hantavirus Prevention Month, said Clare Kioski, MPH, an ADHS epidemiologist. She added that slides will be made out of other contest entries and used during hantavirus-education talks.

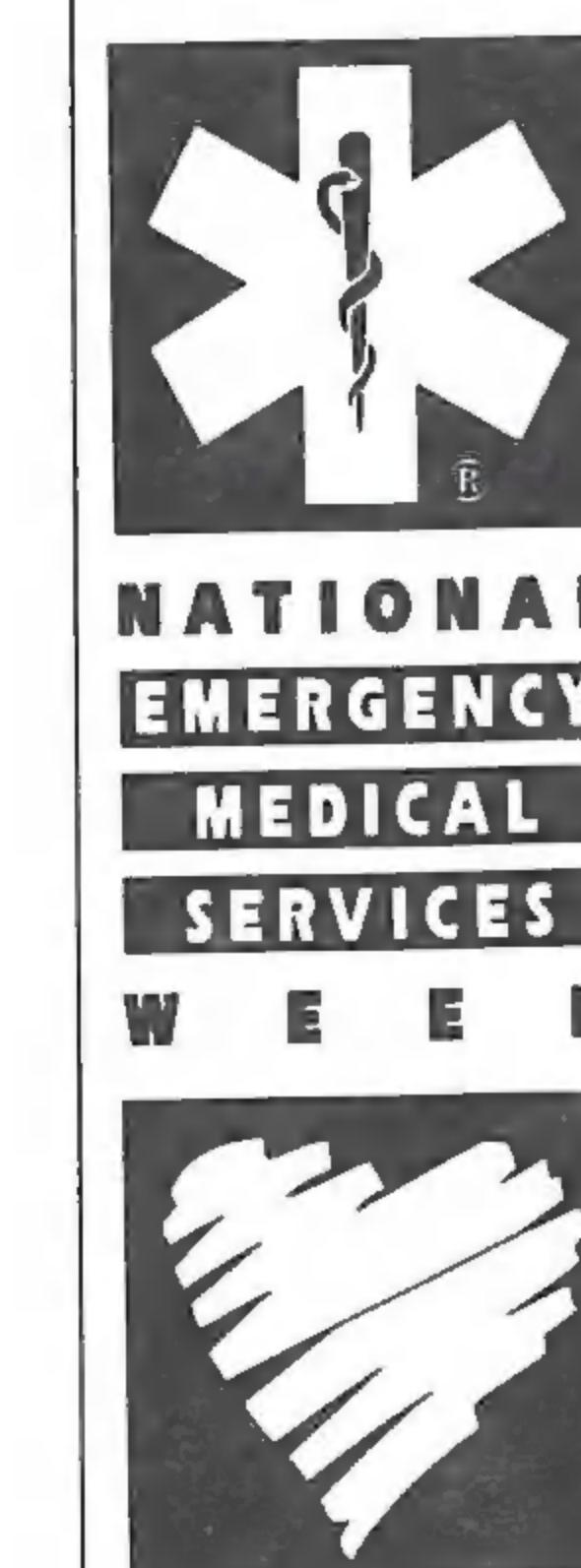
The contest was aimed at educating youngsters and their families



*Thunder Dan Majerle and poster winner Terril Zwall.*

about hantavirus prevention before the spring, when they likely will be performing outside chores and activities that could bring them into contact with rodents. Sixteen on- and off-reservation schools in northern Arizona participated.

In conjunction with the contest, ADHS and local health agencies have been providing hantavirus-prevention lectures and training sessions to northeastern Arizona school districts and parent-teacher organizations upon request. ☀



**EMS:  
The  
Stars of  
Life**

**MAY 15-21, 1994**

# ADHS Report Reveals Minority-Health Gap

The Arizona Department of Health Services has released a report showing that ethnic minorities in Arizona--particularly African Americans and Native Americans--are more likely to die from injury and disease than their Anglo counterparts.

The report, the first of its kind ever produced in Arizona, identifies the scope of health-status disparities that led ADHS Director Jack Dillenberg to create a Center for Minority Health last October.

"It is my hope the center will be able to close the gaps, in part by helping state and local health officials become more attuned to the need for culturally sensitive programs," Dillenberg said.

The report, *Patterns of Mortality by Ethnic Group*, was compiled by the ADHS Office of Public Health Planning, Evaluation & Statistics from mortality figures from 1989, 1990 and 1991 for Anglos, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

Asian Americans, although excluded from the report due to statistically small numbers of deaths in some disease categories, remain a prime concern of ADHS. Alma Peña, the manager of the Center for Minority Health, last November began working closely with the Asian Executive Alliance to identify health needs of the Asian community.

The report found that 75 percent of the Anglos who died during the three years were at least 65 years old, but that only 40 percent of the Native Americans, 52 percent of the Hispanics and 53.2 percent of the

African Americans who died during that period had reached their 65th birthday.

The report also found that persons younger than age 25 accounted for one out of every six deaths among ethnic minorities, but only one out of every 30 Anglo deaths.

Taking a look at mortality by specific cause, the report said the highest death rates for heart disease, cancer, stroke, homicide and HIV/AIDS were those of African Americans. The highest mortality rates for injuries, influenza and pneumonia, suicide, diabetes, alcoholism, and infectious and parasitic diseases belonged to Native Americans.

Hispanics did not post the highest rate for any specific cause of death and even had rates that were lower than Anglos for heart disease, stroke, influenza and pneumonia, and suicide.

The report also turned up a gender gap. Male rates were higher than female rates in each ethnic group, and the largest differential was among Native Americans where the age-adjusted mortality rate was 75.3 percent greater than the rate for females.

"The intent of this publication is to give some sense of the inequalities in the health status of ethnic groups and to stimulate viable initiatives to improve the health of all Arizonans," said Christopher Mrela, Ph.D, the author of the report.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting ADHS at (602) 542-1216. ☈

# Rabid Skunk Increase Seen

By Jeff Davis

There is an increase this year in skunk rabies in southern Arizona, reports ADHS Disease Prevention Services.

Last year only 13 rabid skunks were reported statewide, but during the first quarter of this year 12 rabid skunks already had turned up in southern Pima, western Cochise and Santa Cruz counties, health and animal control officials say.

"No human exposures have been reported this year, but individuals living in or visiting southern Arizona are advised to take precautions to minimize their risk of exposure, including preventing pets from roaming freely," said Craig Levy of the ADHS vector-borne & zoonotic disease section.

As of the first week of April, five rabid skunks were reported between south Tucson and Green Valley, three near Sierra Vista, two in the Patagonia-Sonoita area and one in Nogales. A rabid fox was reported near Sonoita and a rabid coyote was found near Rio Rico.

At least five pet dogs in southern Arizona have had contact with rabid skunks this year, Levy said, reminding residents and visitors to southern Arizona to remember to vaccinate their pets against rabies.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the central nervous system and almost always is fatal. In Arizona rabies most commonly occurs in skunks, foxes and bats, but any mammal, including humans, can contact the disease.

# Enlighten Your Evenings with NIGHT TALKS

The Mental Health Association, in cooperation with agencies and hospitals from throughout the valley, presents the year's brightest series of evening talks. All talks are free, but space may be limited so RSVPs are necessary. For further information on NIGHT TALKS contact the Mental Health Association at 381-1591. Here is the schedule for the next four weeks:

## **The First Year Of Marriage**

Cindy Weiser, C.I.S.W.

April 26, 7 p.m.

Samaritan Behavioral Health Center  
7575 E. Earll Dr.  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
230-CARE

## **Lifestyle Changes Without Fear**

Bob Wolfe, M.S.W.

May 10, 7:30 p.m.

Samaritan Behavioral Health Center  
Desert Campus  
2225 W. Southern Ave.  
Mesa, Arizona  
230-CARE

## **The 10 Traps Of Co-Dependency**

Julie Yarrow, M.C.

May 12, 7 p.m.

Samaritan Behavioral Health Center  
Thunderbird Campus  
5555 W. Thunderbird Rd.  
Glendale, Arizona  
230-CARE

## **Adult Children Living at Home**

John Rusnak, Ph.D.

May 18, 7 p.m.

Samaritan Behavioral Health Center  
7575 E. Earll Dr.  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
230-CARE

## **Power Through Self Esteem**

Melinda Preston, R.N., M.S.N.

May 19, 6 p.m.

St. Joseph's Medical Center's  
Cullen Mem. Bldg. Auditorium  
350 W. Thomas  
Phoenix, Arizona  
280-1020

## **Pressure, Stress & Anxiety**

Pat Port, M.S., R.N.

May 23, 6:30 p.m.

Phoenix Baptist Hospital's  
Community Education Center  
6025 N. 20th Ave.  
Phoenix, Arizona  
246-5788

## **Can Anger Empower Women?**

Donna Myers, R.N., A.C.S.W.

May 24, 7 p.m.

Desert Vista Hospital  
570 W. Brown Road  
Mesa, Arizona  
962-3900 ☀

"Vegetables and fruits have many health benefits ... most, are naturally low in calories, fat and sodium ... many are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin C and dietary fiber ... and none have cholesterol!" ...

National Cancer  
Institute

# Governor Hails Pay Increase

When Governor Symington signed the 1994-95 state budget on April 6 he was particularly heartened by the pay increase awarded to state workers, states a memo delivered to state agency newsletter editors.

"There was no part of the budget that gave the governor more pleasure than getting the Legislature to finally support a 5% increase for state employees," the memo from the Governor's Office said. "The increase was divided by the Legislature into two parts, 3% effective July 1, 1994 and another 2% effective April 1, 1995, but that was far better than other legislative offerings during the budget negotiations. It was only the resolve of the governor that secured the 5% increase at the end of the difficult negotiation process....

"In addition to the pay increase, the governor was able to keep employee health insurance premiums at \$5 for singles and \$75 for families for the lowest cost health insurance plan in each area of the state.

About 59% of employees will see no increase or a decrease in their premium if they continue with the same provider next year, but all employees will have the option of enrolling with the lowest cost providers in order to take full advantage of their pay raise. More expensive insurance plans will still increase, but at least every employee has the choice of quality health insurance at the same low premiums as this year...."

# Flinn Grant

Continued from page 1

public-private effort to reach the childhood immunization goals set by our *Arizona 2000* report," said Dr. Jack Dillenberg, the director of ADHS.

*Arizona 2000: Plan for a Healthy Tomorrow* is ADHS's blueprint for a healthier state. It calls for the immunization of at least 90 percent of all two-year-olds and the elimination of diphtheria, tetanus, measles, rubella and polio by the year 2000.

Medical-record audits by ADHS last year revealed that only 43 percent of the children surveyed were fully immunized by age 2. Full immunization means four doses of diphtheria/tetanus/whooping cough vaccine, three doses of oral polio vaccine and one dose of measles/mumps/rubella vaccine.

ADHS's grant application stated there is a need for health providers throughout the state to share immunization information. It said complete and accurate medical records often are difficult to obtain for many children and that public and private record-keeping systems are fragmented and unable to accommodate the significant transient/migrant population of Arizona.

The application added that children often receive vaccinations from several sources, change health plans and move in and out of AHCCCS, making it increasingly difficult for primary care providers to maintain complete immunization histories.

Under the proposed Arizona Statewide Immunization Information System (ASIIS), an immunization database of all Arizona children would be built from birth registries.

Then, as each child enters the health care system, his or her immunization information would be recorded and stored in the database. The centralized database would act

as a mechanism for exchanging immunization information between providers.

When a child changes health providers or enters school and the immunization record is needed, parents, medical practitioners or school personnel would be able to access the system through computer linkages or an interactive response unit.

The system also could be used to disseminate information about revised immunization schedules, initiate immunization recall/reminder systems, assess immunization levels and perform various vaccine management functions.

The three-year Flinn grant will be used to purchase a central computer, database software and other equipment and to fund a "project liaison" position with The Arizona Partnership for Infant Immunization (TAPII).

"In approving this grant, the foundation's board of trustees acknowledges the importance of public and private sector collaboration in helping to reverse the low rates of childhood immunizations in our state," said Murphy, the Flinn executive director. He added that the grant, besides boosting immunizations, "may serve a broader role in increasing access to primary care services for many of Arizona's children."

Groups and individuals who have written letters supporting the ADHS proposal include Ann Symington, the governor's wife and honorary chairman of TAPII, Dr. Daniel Cloud of TAPII, the National Immunization Program of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, AHCCCS Director Mabel Chen, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Action Alliance, the Arizona Medical Association, Mercy Care Plan, Samaritan Group, Inc., the Arizona School Nurse Task Force, CIGNA,

Arizona Physicians, Inc., the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians, the Arizona County Health Officers Association, the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers, Maricopa Managed Care Systems, FHP and Intergroup.

"Before we received this grant we had no real chance of reaching the 90% immunization level because of problems with incomplete or lost immunization records," said Laurie Carmody, the ADHS immunization program manager who is to direct the ASIIS effort.

Murphy, in his grant-announcement letter to Dr. Dillenberg, delivered high praise to Carmody. "In our review of the request, we have come to appreciate the vision and skills Laurie Carmody brings to a project of this scale and commend you for choosing her to coordinate and lead this important effort," he wrote.

The Flinn Foundation was established in 1965 by Dr. Robert S. Flinn, a cardiologist who practiced in Phoenix for nearly 50 years, and his wife, Irene.

## SOFTBALL STANDINGS

The team from Vital Records nudged out the team from Arizona State Hospital for the championship in the first season of the ADHS softball league.

The Vital Records squad, which goes by the name "Renee's Screamin' Demons," finished with 8 wins, 2 losses and a tie. ASH had 8 wins and 3 losses. In fairness to ASH, we report that Vital Records kept the standings.

Adams' Apples, the team from 1740 W. Adams, was third with a 4-6-1 record and the State Lab team--The Lab Rats--remained stuck in the Petri dish with 10 losses and a win.